

Old Chisholm Tavern
Knoxville, Tennessee

Knox Co.

TN
HABS NO. 10-111

HABS
TENN
41-KNOV

4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 19

Historic American Buildings Survey
J. Eraser Smith, District Officer
36 So. Evergreen, Memphis, Tenn.

1792
TENN

9. 24. 1.

9.

CHISHOLM TAVERN
Front and Gay Streets
Knoxville, Knox County
Tennessee

Owner: Not given.

Date of Erection: 1792.

Architect: No record.

Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Poor.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

TENN

40. K. H. V.

4-

CHISHOLM TAVERN
Front and Gay Streets
Knoxville, Knox County
Tennessee

HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE:

This was the home of Captain John Chisholm, who came to White's Fort in 1790 with Governor Blount. Chisholm bought a half-acre lot on Front Street and built his home there in 1792. It is believed that the architect of the Blount Mansion designed this tavern.¹ It is situated in the same block as the Blount House and very much resembles it in details and construction. Perhaps, after his services to Governor Blount, the architect was retained in this wilderness town long enough to execute Mr. Chisholm's tavern, the first hotel in Knoxville and now occupied by slum tenants.²

The two storey frame house was built on a steep slope. At each gable end and on the kitchen "ell" are brick chimneys of the freestanding variety. The interior is typically of the Revolutionary Period: sunburst mantel in the tavern room, cupboards with scrolled shelves in the dining room, and dog-eared trim throughout the house. The triangular space below the main stairs is panelled with radiating rails.

¹History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, by Garden Study Club of Nashville, pp. 68, 69.

²Submitted by Ben J. McMurtry, approved by J. Frazer Smith. Also historic marker on house, shown in photograph.

(Original sheet in field notebook).

by *Henry Chandler Furman*
May 1936